

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 065931

17

ORIGIN EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 INR-05 PM-03 NSC-05 NSCE-00

DODE-00 SP-02 L-01 PRS-01 CIAE-00 /038 R

DRAFTED BY EA/LC:AFANTIPPAS:JY

APPROVED BY EA/LC:LMRIVES

----- 078271

R 241915Z MAR 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 065931

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

PFOR, PINT, SOPN, CB, US

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, SOPN, CB, US

REF: PHNOM PENH 5328

SUBJECT: UM SIM COMMENTS ON SIHANOUK

FOLLOWING IS PERTINENT SECTION OF STORY THAT APPEARED IN
THE WASHINGTON POST MARCH 22 BASED ON TICKER ITEMS.

BEGIN QUOTE: IN WASHINGTON, CAMBODIAN AMBASSADOR UM SIM
SAID YESTERDAY HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT OPPOSE A RETURN TO
POWER BY PRINCE NORODOM SIHANOUK IF THIS WOULD BRING PEACE
TO THE COUNTRY.

ASKED AT A LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE AMERICAN SECURITY
COUNCIL, A CONSERVATIVE GROUP, IF HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT
OPPOSE A PEACE SETTLEMENT IN CAMBODIA ALLOWING THE FORMER
HEAD OF STATE TO RETURN THE AMBASSADOR REPLIED, 'RIGHT.'

ASKED IF THE GOVERNMENT WAS LIKELY TO SURRENDER IF IT
FAILED TO RECEIVE ANY FURTHER U.S. AID, HE REPLIED; 'MAYBE.
YES, IT IS ALMOST CERTAIN.'

HOWEVER, SIHANOUK SAID IN AN INTERVIEW PUBLISHED IN HONG
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 065931

KONG YESTERDAY THAT LON NOL'S GOVERNMENT MAY LAST FROM

THREE MONTHS TO A YEAR BECAUSE INSURGENT STRATEGY AIMED AT
A WAR OF ATTRITION.

IN AN INTERVIEW WITH THE FAR EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW,
SIHANOUK SAID HE HOPED THE GOVERNMENT THAT REPLACED LON
NOL WOULD BE SOCIALIST AND NOT COMMUNIST.

HE ADDED: 'WE REFUSE, AND SHALL REFUSE, ANY NEGOTIATION'
WITH THE LON NOL GOVERNMENT OR ANY 'LAOS-TYPE' COALITION
SOLUTION. END QUOTE.

COMMENT: DEPTOFF ATTENDED LUNCHEON NEWS CONFERENCE IN
QUESTION AND QUOTATION CITED ABOVE WAS ESSENTIALLY
CORRECT. UM SIM'S COMMENT WAS MADE AS A RESULT OF A
QUESTION BUT IN CONTEXT OF A DESCRIPTION BY UM SIM CON-
CERNING THE GKR'S HISTORY OF NEGOTIATING EFFORTS SUCH AS
NOTING THE GKR'S IMPLICIT WILLINGNESS TO TALK TO
SIHANOUK IN THE JULY, 1973 OFFER. YOUR ASSUMPTION CON-
CERNING WHO UM SIM IS TALKING TO AND HIS MOTIVATIONS IS
ALSO CORRECT. THE GKR AMBASSADOR IS CONCENTRATING ON
A VERY SKEPTICAL SEGMENT OF US SOCIETY. FOR EXAMPLE,
THOUGH THE LUNCHEON IN QUESTION WAS HOSTED BY THE AMERI-
CAN SECURITY COUNCIL AND A NUMBER OF SYMPATHETIC
JOURNALISTS WERE PRESENT, THE WIRE SERVICE PEOPLE DID
PURSUE THE HARDER LINE OF QUESTIONS. IN ALL UM SIM
SPOKE FOR SOME 45 MINUTE FIELDING QUESTIONS AND GENERALLY
PERFORMED CREDITABLY. THERE SHOULD BE SOME SYMPATHETIC
STORIES BY SOME OF THE MORE FRIENDLY TV AND PRESS
COMMENTATORS WHO WERE PRESENT. UM SIM IS ALSO BEGINNING
TO SHOW THE STRAIN OF CONSTANT REBUFFS AND LATENT
HOSTILITY IN HIS CALLS ON CAPITOL HILL. FOR EXAMPLE,
HE HAS BEEN CONCENTRATING ON THE FRESHMEN CONGRESSMEN
AND OTHERS MOST VOCAL IN THEIR OPPOSITION TO AID. TO
OUR KNOWLEDGE HE HAS NEVER BEEN DISLOYAL TO THE
MARSHAL BUT RATHER HAS STRESSED THE REASONABLENESS OF THE
GKR POSITION IN THE FACE OF A MERCILESS ENEMY AND
APPARENTLY UNRECEPTIVE MAJORITY IN CONGRESS. KISSINGER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, POLITICAL CONCESSIONS, POLITICAL LEADERS, PEACE PLANS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: RowellE0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE065931
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: AFANTIPPAS:JY
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750103-0329
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750321/aaaaasuw.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: 75 PHNOM PENH 5328
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: RowellE0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 JUL 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <13 NOV 2003 by RowellE0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SIHANOUK
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, SOPN, CB, US, (UM SIM), (SIHANOUK, NORODOM)
To: PHNOM PENH
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006